

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 00920 270951Z
ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 SP-02 IO-14 OMB-01
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R 270800Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 857

UNCLAS COTONOU 920

FOR SELF HELP PROGRAM SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, DM
SUBJ: SELF-HELP FUNDING REQUEST FOR FISCAL 79

1. DURING THE FIRST YEARS OF THIS DECADE, AMEMBASSY COTONOU WAS ROUTINELY REQUESTING AND SPENDING SELF-HELP FUNDS OF \$80,000 OR MORE. HOWEVER, IN THE PAST FEW YEARS, THE UNFAVORABLE POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS LED TO REQUESTS OF ONLY \$40,000 AND THE EMBASSY HAS HAD TROUBLE DISBURSING EVEN THOSE LIMITED FUNDS. DURING FISCAL YEAR 1978, HOWEVER, BOTH NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE BEEN INCREASINGLY WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH THE EMBASSY ON SELF-HELP PROJECTS. AS A RESULT, THE EMBASSY WILL SPEND ALL OF ITS 1978 FUNDS AND WILL BE UNABLE TO RESPOND TO A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF REQUESTS DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS. FOR FISCAL 1979, THEREFORE, THE EMBASSY SEEKS TO RETURN TO THE SPENDING LEVELS OF EARLIER YEARS. FOR 1979 WE ARE REQUESTING \$90,000 IN SELF-HELP FUNDS., TO BE DISBURSED AS FOLLOWS:

2. VILLAGE LATRINE AND WELL-BUILDING PROJECTS: \$45,000:
DURING 1978 THE EMBASSY AND P.C. HAVE BEGUN A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL PROGRAM OF COOPERATION IN WHICH VOLUNTEERS SUPERVISE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL RURAL PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND THIS PROGRAM DURING 1979 TO
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REACH SOME OF THE MORE REMOTE AREAS WITH SELF-HELP PROJECTS.

3. SCHOOLS: \$15,000:

EFFORTS TO INCREASE COOPERATION WITH THE MIN OF EDUCATION HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL IN 1978. THE MINISTRY HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL IN PROCURING BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE FAILED

TO DELIVER SELF-HELP MATERIALS. THE EMBASSY PLANS TO SUPPLY FUNDING FOR FINISHING AND FURNISHING SCHOOLS FOR WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO FUNDS AVAILABLE.

4. SMALL BRIDGES IN NORTHERN BENIN - \$20,000.

REQUESTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO FURNISH MATERIALS FOR THREE BRIDGES TO OUTLYING VILLAGES WHICH ARE USUALLY COMPLETELY ISOLATED DURING THE FOUR MONTHS OF THE RAINY SEASON.

5. FUNDING FOR FUTURE REQUESTS: \$10,000. TOTAL \$90,000. THOMPSON

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